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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,447	09/28/2001	David Christian Lentz	CRD-0957	2148

27777 7590 05/30/2007
PHILIP S. JOHNSON
JOHNSON & JOHNSON
ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003

EXAMINER

POUS, NATALIE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/966,447	Applicant(s) LENTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Natalie Pous	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :9/23/04, 5/17/04, 2/25/04, 11/21/03, 8/1/02, 4/12/02, 1/14/02.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/3/07 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claim have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection based on amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaster et al. (US 5234447) in view of Swanson et al. (US 6113612).

Kaster teaches a device for joining substantially tubular organs in a living organism comprising: an anastomosis device (12) for connecting a graft vessel to a target vessel such that the two vessels are in fluid communication, the anastomosis device including a fastening flange (46) and a plurality of staples (43) connected to one fastening flange having sharpened ends with barbs (fig. 8), the fastening flange comprising a single ring (46) structure configured to have a reduced profile for delivery (it is noted that since the ends of flange 46 are not fused, see fig. 10, the device is configured to have a reduced profile for delivery) and the plurality of staples being configured to spring from a restrained position (fig. 14) to a position substantially perpendicular to the ring structure, and finally to an inverted loop position through the graft vessel and target vessel (fig. 19);

Wherein the device comprises a flange and a plurality of fastener members (fig. 8)

Kaster fails to teach a biocompatible vehicle affixed to at least a portion of the anastomosis device; and at least one agent in therapeutic dosages incorporated into the biocompatible vehicle. Swanson teaches an anastomosis device wherein the device includes a biocompatible vehicle (522, 530) being made from polymer materials for carrying drugs to facilitate healing and or sealing (Column 13, proximate lines 3-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Kaster with a biocompatible vehicle including a therapeutic

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agent as taught by Swanson in order to carry drugs to facilitate healing and or sealing of the anastomosis site.

Claims 4-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kaster and Swanson et al. Although the combination of Kaster and Swanson et al. does not disclose the anastomosis device comprising the polymeric matrix and drugs as claimed, the polymeric matrix and drugs as claimed are well known in the art that are provided on a stent or an anastomosis device in order to deliver drug for treating and healing or preventing restenosis at an implantation site. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the polymeric matrix and drugs as claimed in order to effectively deliver the drug for treating, healing and preventing restenosis at an implantation site.

Regarding to the specific weight percentage of polymers of a copolymer as claimed, it is well known in the art to make a copolymer out of various percentages by weight in order to provide a polymer matrix with a desired property/characteristic. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to vary the property/characteristic of the polymeric matrix by varying the percentages by weight of each residue in order to maximize the property/characteristic of polymeric matrix for use in certain drug application.

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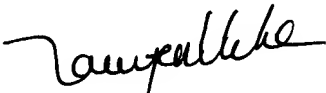
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie Pous whose telephone number is (571) 272-6140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:30pm, off every 2nd Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tan-Uyen (Jackie) Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NRP
5/16/07


(JACKIE) TAN-UYEN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
5/24/07